

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

A WEEKLY JOURNAL
OF
LOCAL NEWS AND HOME READING,
PUBLISHED AT
BLOOMFIELD, ESSEX CO., NEW JERSEY,
BY THE
Bloomfield Publishing Company.

\$2.00 a Year, in advance. Single Copies, 5c.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADVERTISEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS OF ANY KIND, SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO "THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN, P. O. BOX 240, BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY." OUR OFFICE IS OVER THE POST OFFICE.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE AUTHOR'S NAME, IN CONFIDENCE, OR FOR PUBLICATION, REJECTED OR UNAVAILABLE ARTICLES, HAVING PROPER STAMP AND ADDRESS, WILL BE RETURNED.

WHILE IT IS THE FULL INTENTION OF THE EDITORS TO ALLOW THE LARGEST LIBERTY TO CONTRIBUTORS, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT WE DO NOT THEREBY ENDORSE THEIR OPINIONS OR ARE IN ANY SENSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM.

NEWS ITEMS, NOTICES AND REPORTS MUST BE SENT TO THE OFFICE NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY EVENING OF EACH WEEK, IF THEY ARE TO APPEAR IN THE CURRENT NUMBER.

TRANSIENT NOTICES, FIFTY CENTS FOR EIGHT LINES, EACH INSERTION. FOR LARGER SPACE AND PERMANENT RATES, APPLY AS ABOVE.

OUR PAPER.

To the uninitiated the making up of a bright and healthy newspaper appears easy enough. You just write what you want for original matter, and your scissors and paste do the rest. No matter on which side you may turn for material, there is "linen on every hedge."

Precisely! We could have told you all that without asking you to be at the trouble to think it out. Editors, you know, are so very original, and the "copy" that they send to the printer is dashed off so rapidly! Subjects obtrude themselves, and cry "Take me! Take me!" And all the exchanges are heaped to the top of the column-rules with good things! The fun is every bit of it fresh, and doesn't need to be soaked in disinfectants before it is used! The "personals" are neither futile nor sarcastic. Oh, yes, it is the easiest thing on earth—from the tyro's point of view—to edit and run a weekly journal.

Perhaps, if the veil were once torn away, it would be a benefit to our present and future constituency of readers. Perhaps, if the mace were rudely pulled from about the nutmeg, and we gave you that same hard morsel to chew upon, you might understand us better! That is what "we"—the editorial board, to wit—would decidedly prefer.

Imprints—to publish a good local journal requires considerable practical experience. What readers want is not always what editors condescend to give them. Hence the readers cry, "Stop my paper!" Hence the editors do not always succeed. The fact is, that local readers ask for local news, and they expect to get it. They ask, moreover, for what is fresh and interesting in the other portions of the paper. And to this, also, they have a right.

Item—if the local journal proposes to tumble into the groove already cut for such enterprises, it will begin by reducing its expenses to a minimum. This is done by several devices. There are combinations in different parts of the country, employing editors and issuing what are known as "patent outsiders." The news and literary contents of the first and fourth pages of nearly every country journal are stereotyped. When the *Suggsville Suggestor* goes to press, its edition is printed with the familiar head-line, and the half-printed sheet is then shipped to the country office, to be filled up on the inside as usual, and worked off from the old hand-press. And as quickly as the *Suggsville Suggestor's* sheets are counted, then the head-line is changed, and the *Jonestown Clarion* proceeds with the same outside.

No wonder that a batch of country newspapers are as monotonous as a row of old postal cards. Their head-lines, even, are quite alike. You meet the same weary jokes, the same stale items. But the cost is little enough. And this cost may be further reduced by the purchase of the editorials themselves, at so much for the running foot of stereotyped matter. All the ingenuity required is the ability to use a hand-saw at the proper line, and you can obtain in

this manner, and at a very cheap rate, profound and very often admirable essays on the great topics of the day—"pot-bottlers" written by poor wretches whose pens must earn their daily bread, no matter how obscurely.

Thus the ordinary country journal is constructed. It would be strange if it had nothing good or bright in its columns. But it is no exponent of the community; it has no individual life which it does not share with hundreds of similar ventures. It is an "ocean-tramp," bound from hence to yonder, to take and fetch any cargo that it can get.

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN has no affinity with this class of newspapers. We have counted and supplied the cost of all kinds in undertaking its publication. It is an enterprise full of hard and constant work to those engaged in it. But we believe that our town will support us—that the literary talent of the good old village will rally to our aid—and we know that we can, and shall, make a paper which from week to week will present an unusual share of original work. We shall be well satisfied if its influence brightens our homes, advances our social interests, and brings the reader into a happy frame of mind whenever he opens its pages.

PUBLIC OPINION.

There is nothing harder to define than public opinion, and there is nothing that defines harder when it strikes. Right or wrong, it is a mighty power. It originates much as various solutions crystallize, and, having crystallized, it is remarkably permanent. The old proverb, "Give a dog a bad name and then hang him" is a shrewd expression of a great truth!

The old Jews—who knew the ways of the world uncommonly well—had some sayings which go to the root of the matter. They were accustomed to say that "Two pieces of coin in a bag make more noise than a hundred;" meaning by this that a few energetic persons will accomplish more than many who have neither scope nor inclination. They also said, "Thy friend has a friend and thy friend's friend has a friend; be discreet;" and their proverbs upon the subject of the diffusion of news and gossip were very pungent. Thus they had a maxim, "If thou tellest thy secret to three persons, ten know of it;" and another that "Silence is the fence around wisdom."

In such terse methods they endeavored to inculcate doctrines of prudence and common sense in daily affairs. Their wisdom may be handsomely copied by us, particularly when they say, "Into the well that supplies thee with water cast no stones."

Right and healthful public sentiment keeps matters sweet and pure. With the ear of a ready journal bent down to listen, there is no one too insignificant to be heard or too important to neglect the promulgation of his own proper ideas of reform or improvement. It never helps any project to show how much better we could have done it if it had been left to us. And the future benefits of free discussion are to be derived from a cordial agreement to look upon the best and most hopeful side of each new enterprise.

We have no doubt that the columns of THE CITIZEN are destined to become the arena for many a debate—and we shall be glad of it. But we protest against destructive analysis, against criticisms which offer no remedy, against criticism without charity, and against hard hitting, unless something is to be positively gained by it.

There are topics enough for a long while to come, and when these are exhausted there will have arisen twice as many more. This entire region is certain to be a subsidiary metropolis. Newark, the Oranges, and Montclair have equal interests with us, as we have with them, in promoting schemes of water supply, of drainage agreement, of symmetrical development, and of consistent and steady progress. We are nearer to the New York business centers than many localities in Brooklyn, Harlem, Staten Island, or upon the North River. And just in proportion as this is felt, the tide of population will be more and more apparent.

We aim at the creation and consolidation of public opinion upon these subjects. We conceive it to be the judicious course for each resident to encourage his friends to visit Bloomfield; and for him to let the real advantages of the locality be known. We have never hitherto suffered from overpraise on anybody's part—either our own or our neighbors'. It is not likely that we shall err in this direction now.

SOME of our friends say: "Your paper is readable, well arranged, and neatly printed, but it is too small." To such we answer: No baby was ever born with the stature of a man, though they have been known to come into the world with their eye teeth cut; give the young CITIZEN pap enough, of the kind that nourishes, and it will grow to any desirable extent.

ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The first number of THE CITIZEN contained a blank form of subscription to the paper. We have received a generous response, and are assured that our friends are ready to welcome us at the start. It is quite desirable that as large a number of subscriptions should be received at once for our first issue as possible, and for this reason we urge all to send us their names without further delay.

This paper means to deserve the cordial support of our community; and if we deserve it, we expect to receive it promptly and freely.

The amount of good which a well-conducted newspaper can do is not easily measured. It can make our homes happier, our opinions more accurate and just, our respect for our neighbors greater, our interest in public affairs more intelligent.

It can promote and aid what is good and useful. It can check, and restrain, and expose what is bad and dangerous. The character of the gentlemen who compose our Board of Directors is sufficient to indicate where we shall be found on any question of importance to our people.

In order that we may know who are our readers, we ask you to forward your name as a subscriber.

ATTENTION is called to the rewards offered by the Township Committee for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons who fired the buildings of Mr. N. H. Dodd, and also of Mr. R. N. Dodd.

Of course it is the plain duty of any person having information of this character to communicate it at once to the authorities; but it is hoped that the reward offered may stimulate a little research in that direction.

We do not find any advertisement in our columns by any of our Bloomfield carpenters or masons or painters.

At this time of year, when many new residents have jobs to be done, the men who advertise their business will probably get the most work.

THAT was a shrewd diplomat who said: "The first law of diplomacy is—and the second law of diplomacy is: 'When you are in doubt, DON'T.'" To conserve the rights of all, to express the wishes of a community, and to do this without giving needless offense, will require the constant exercise of this maxim.

WE are anxious to represent every class of our fellow citizens, and it will not be our fault if we don't do it. There are many small items of interest which we are not a bit too dignified to insert. In fact, whatever will gratify any part of our constituency and not annoy or wound any other part shall have due attention. Let us hear from you!

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS.

Horace Greeley is credited with saying, in speaking of the resumption of specie payments, that "the way to resume is to resume."

We hear a great deal said about local improvements, and it is very good evidence of the extent of the interest felt in the subject, but it must not be allowed to end in talk. The way to improve is to improve.

Of course there are many ways in which improvements may be started and carried to completion, and it requires but little observation to see that there is a healthy activity throughout the village. The Improvement Association, of which Dr. Davis is president, is to be credited with much that is being planned and accomplished.

Nearly one hundred shade trees were set out in the meadow land, formerly Watessing Pond, and in such a soil it will take but a few years to attain a growth which will quite alter the appearance of that approach to the village.

The grading of the Park, too, has reached a stage where the result can be seen to justify the expense. It only remains for the Township Committee to order the removal of the posts, which were never useful and have ceased to be ornamental.

We wish now to suggest only one improvement in the appearance of our streets, but it is so simple, and yet so greatly adds to the effect of a pretty street, that attention cannot too soon be directed to it. It is that each man would see to it that the grass at the outer edge of his sidewalk and next to the gutter be kept trimmed and the line of gutter made distinct. A few hours' work in a week would do this, and the result would be most pleasing.

Improvements, like charity, should begin at home.

ELECTRICITY is about to be utilized as a cooking power. It may be possible after a time to order a beefsteak at a restaurant and get it in less than three-quarters of an hour.—*Hartford Post*.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

Notices will be inserted under this heading at ten cents a line each week.

ATTENTION is called to the spring announcement of Mr. A. H. Van Horn, the well-known furniture dealer of 78 Market Street, Newark. He advertises reductions in all lines of furniture and house-furnishing goods, of which he carries an immense stock, and all of which he sells for cash or for weekly payments at cash prices. Goods delivered free in Bloomfield, Montclair, and in all parts of the State. Parties about to furnish should visit his store.

C. PARKER, PHOTOGRAPHER,

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BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

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MONROE PLACE.

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JOHN E. WILSON, M.D.,

Homeopathic Physician and Surgeon,

Bloomfield Ave., near Broad Street,

BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

Office Hours: 8 1/2 to 10; 6 to 7 1/2.

TELEPHONE.

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745 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.

JOHN WHITEHEAD. JOSEPH D. GALLAGHER.

Residence of J. D. Gallagher: cor. Washington St. and Hillside Ave., Bloomfield.

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New and Second Hand Instruments at Lowest

Prices for Cash or Small Monthly Payments.

Also to Let and Rent Applied on Purchase.

Old Instruments taken in exchange. Pianos and

Organs Tuned, Repaired, Boxed, Shipped, and Stored.

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ONLY GOOD GOODS.

ALWAYS LARGE VARIETY.

UNIFORMLY LOW PRICES.

We ask an early inspection of our unusually attractive stock of Black Silks, Satins, Brocades, and French Wool Dress Fabrics. Our lines are very complete, and every facility is offered to customers in matched trimmings, buttons, garnitures, and other articles needed to complete the costume. So, too, we confidently commend our department for the sale of WHITE GOODS, LACES, AND EMBROIDERIES. No finer stock of Laces, Made-up Laces, and Fine Embroideries can be found in Newark or New York.

Spring and Summer Styles

OF READY-MADE

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For Men, Youths, Boys, and Children, at the original

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Our inducements are Latest Styles, Finest Goods, Lowest Prices. Your inspection is solicited, without obligation to buy.

Spring Overcoats, \$6.00, strictly all wool. Those for \$9.00 and \$12.00 substantially made, and of really superior quality, while those for \$15.00, \$18.00, and \$18.00 are made and trimmed EQUAL to the FINEST CUSTOM WORK.

Dress Suits,

In Black Cloth, Elastique, Piques, French and English Diagonals.

Business Suits,

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We invite special attention to our strictly all-wool suits, in several different styles, at the low price of \$10.00.

We offer nothing in the way of clothing but thoroughly reliable fabrics, manufactured with conscientious care, in the latest Spring Style, and marked at figures which we know to be lower than the same qualities are sold elsewhere.

Every garment positively our own manufacture. No misfits. Goods exchanged or money refunded.

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Five doors south of N. & N. Y. R. Depot.